

The Role of Women in WWII

During WWII, women found their roles in society changing dramatically. As with WWI, when the men left for war, women filled the need to labor in various areas. Some women went to work in factories building war materials, others farmed, others served in uniform and some women even found an opportunity to play professional sports.

“Rosie the Riveter,” a fictional character designed to symbolize and celebrate female factory workers became representative of thousands of women who gave up traditional female roles during the 1940s to do their part at the Home Front.

Using the posters provided, answer the following questions:

1. Describe “Rosie’s” appearance. What type of clothing is she wearing? What emotion do you think the expression on her face is conveying?
2. In your view, does the illustration highlight “Rosie’s” femininity, or downplay it? How do you think women at that time may have felt about the thought of dressing like “Rosie”?
3. Do you think women today would be flattered or offended by the portrayal of “Rosie” in the 1940’s poster.

